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DIRECTORATE OF INTELLIGENCE

Current Intelligence Digest

Secret

34 29 November 1967 0238/67



Approved for Release: 2018/06/28 C06662701

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GENERAL

Vietnam

Only small-scale engagements between allied and Communist forces have been reported in the past several days.

One of these limited enemy actions included mortar attacks on two US - South Vietnamese air bases in the delta on 28 November. During the period 25-26 November, the Communists leveled 14 mortar attacks on allied positions in the delta provinces; they also shelled two Special Forces camps, the US base at Nha Trang, and several US positions in the central highlands.

According to late information, a South Vietnamese outpost and district headquarters at Bu Dop in Phuoc Long Province in northern III corps were attacked on 29 November. US and South Vietnamese forces supported by tactical air strikes repulsed the attack after several hours. Enemy losses were 31 killed, while the South Vietnamese lost 15 killed and 62 wounded. No US losses were reported.

Police Director Loan, who submitted his resignation late last week, said on 27 November that he had agreed to stay at his post for at least two or three more months. This change apparently was prompted by Vice President Ky, who reportedly told Loan that his resignation could not be accepted because it would complicate the organization of the government. Ky promised to review Loan's request in a few months.

Loan's reason for resigning, in addition to a stomach ailment, was his conviction that he would be at odds with important personalties and embarrass the new government. Specifically, Loan felt that the government ignored police information on the questionable background of several potential cabinet and high government appointees including President Thieu's secretary general, Nguyen Van Huong.

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